

GAY & LESBIAN MAGAZINE

CONTACTS 接觸

雜誌 *magazine*

ISSUE NO.48



22 AUG 1997



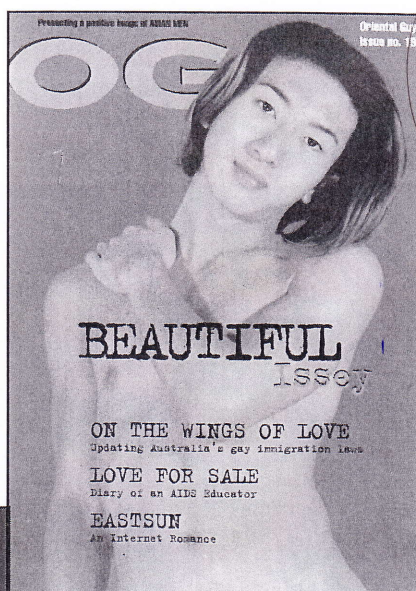
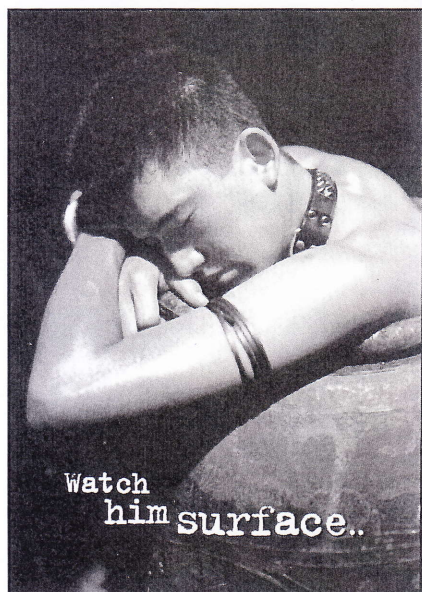
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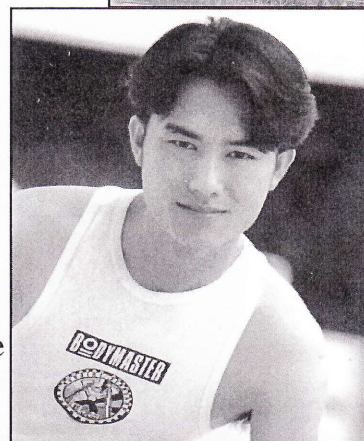
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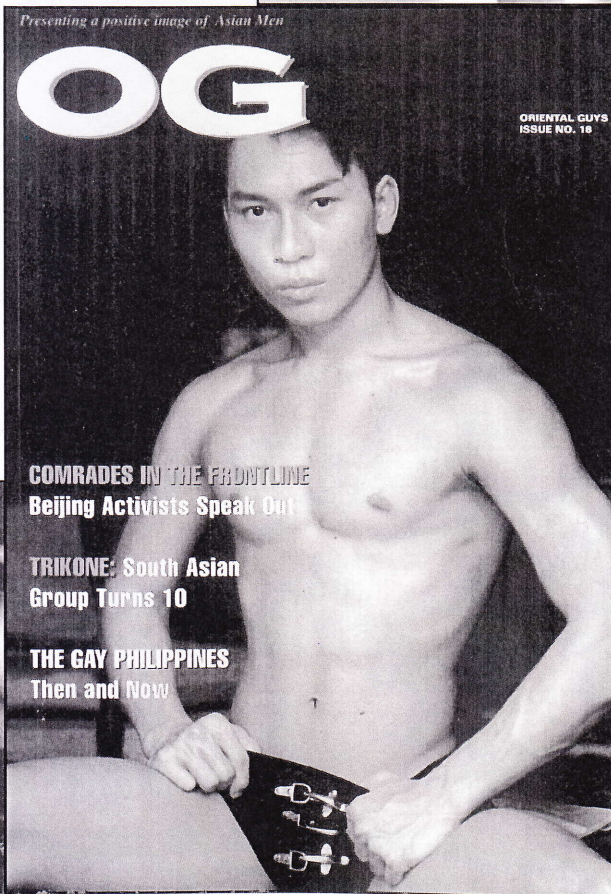
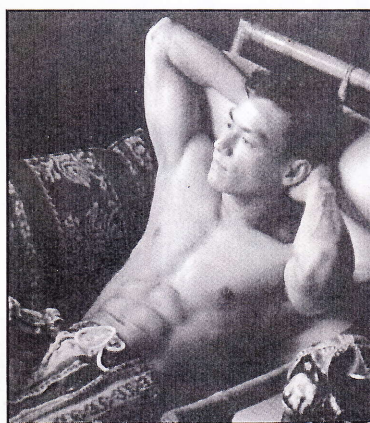
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OG 18



We were so totally underwhelmed by the response to our article in issue

46 for the Gay Games that we thought that (a) no-one had read the article or (b) everyone was too busy with that thing that happened on 30th June. Either way we really feel that we can't let the chance go by, without a bigger effort on our part, to get more people from Hong Kong going to the Games.

It shouldn't be too difficult to get more people from Hong Kong going this time, at the last Games there was a total of three.

Now, we can't, and don't want to, claim to be marvellous mathematicians but it would take the use of a slide rule and calculator (to say nothing of a main-frame computer) to calculate the minute percentage that 3 people make, from the accepted number of 350,000 Gay people there are in Hong Kong.

Lots of other people are, it seems, of the same mind. Which is why over the next few weeks there will be (we're reliably informed) a super blitz of information to all the Gay bars, clubs, saunas, Karaoke bars and the like together with all the known Gay voluntary groups. Although the design, to keep costs down, will be minimal the information about the Games will be as comprehensive as possible.

That the Games are competitive is no secret. Otherwise what relevance would the medals have? One of the best kept secret of the Games is this—over fifty thousand Gay people from all over the world, will be together for over eight days. And they'll enjoy being there, eating, drinking, having fun, taking part in the activities and events, and above all being Gay.

Will you be there?

Issue No.48

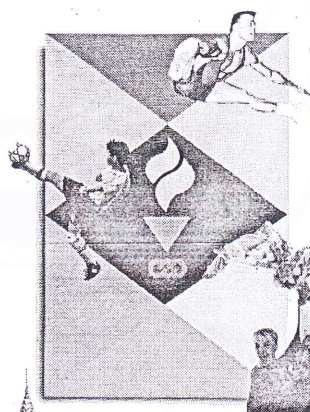
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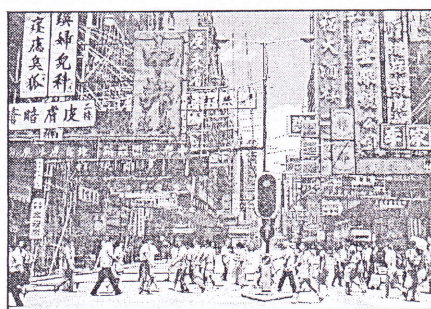
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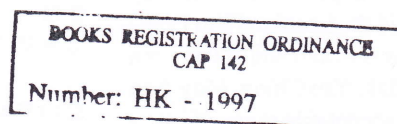
Page 11

Gay Games

Page 15



Letter to Hong Kong



Regulars

4	Scene Around
5	Fifi
6	Global News
9	Book Review
10	Club Page
14	Out on the Net
17	Personals
18	Guide

Page

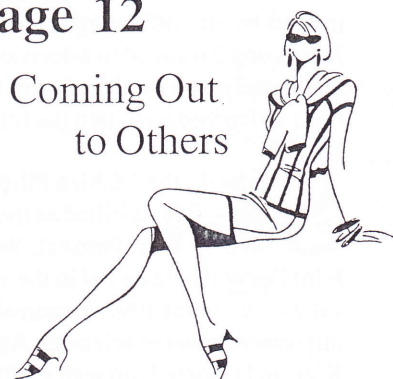
8



Portrait of a Fighter

Page 12

Coming Out
to Others



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Scene Around

By Patrick & Friends

August 17th sees yet another Rubber Love disco at the Viceroy, Sun Hung Kai Centre, Wanchai. These very successful parties promote safer sex—something we are particularly keen to support—and are organised by AIDS Concern as part of their outreach programme for Gay men. (As we went to press the date could not be confirmed. Please check with Aids Concern's Graham Smith 2560 8528).

Gear, the high quality and priced underwear shop in Wanchai has closed. Whilst never very popular with the Gay in-crowd it did last longer than predicted by many, who said it couldn't last a year. They dumbfounded their critics by being in business over three years. Manager Francis Lowe once said "I want to protect the image of my shop. I don't want it to have a Gay reputation" strange thing for him to have said given that the high percentage of their customers were Gay, albeit closeted.

GayHongkong, the IRC chat line was recently hi-jacked by a single disgruntled member who, waiting until everyone else was off line, changed the channel into an invitation only line! This meant that no-one else could join until invited by the offending member. A hurried council on Gay Hongkong 2 resulted in a decision to ban, for life, the miscreant. Fortunately he saw the error of his ways in time, and has now been welcomed back into the fold.

Strangely the Lesbian Film Festival scheduled for August 16th—24th is billed as the second part of the 6th Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. We say strange because the Gay Film Festival held earlier in the year said the Lesbian Film Festival would be mid-1997. Presumably this is it, and whilst there is an impressive panel of selectors, Anson Mak, Yau Ching, May Ann King and Connie Lam with an equally acceptable range of international Lesbian films we can't help wondering why they needed to include Gay in the billing? The Film Fest will be held at the Hong Kong Arts Centre and is sponsored by Propaganda.

Will there be any changes of gay situation in Hong Kong? For sure Gay bars, Karaoke, saunas and discos can still run their business, but will there be police raids? Do all 14 existing Gay groups have to re-register? Will there be any difficulty for registration of any new Gay groups

and application of Gay public gathering? Would it be labelled as getting overseas organisation's support if linking and communicating with overseas Gay and human rights groups? Will the Gay rights movement be labelled as "human rights action" and sentenced as "danger to the nation's security and social order"? Our democratic allies of the old days for the fight of 'Gay rights' are fading out in the new political range now, what should our new policy be?

Isvara is planning a forum inviting scholars, politicians, local gay organisations, individual gay activists and all Gays and Lesbians to discuss these uncertainties and worries in September. Any and all suggestions, comments, or physical support are welcome. Please write with your suggestions, comments or to join the volunteer team: Julian Chan Isvara PO Box 74342, Kowloon Central Post Office, Kowloon. Tel: 2782 0649. Fax 2374 5948

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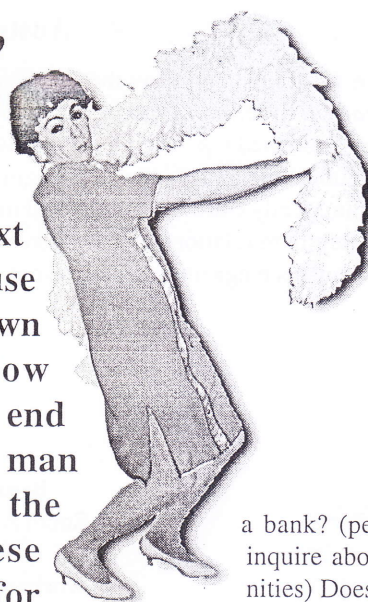
Fifi

Following are the next eight tips you can use to catch your very own hubby. If you follow them closely, you'll end up with a gem of a man that will make you the envy of town. These rules have worked for me, (although some of my friends deny this) but if you follow them closely, I'm sure they'll work for you.

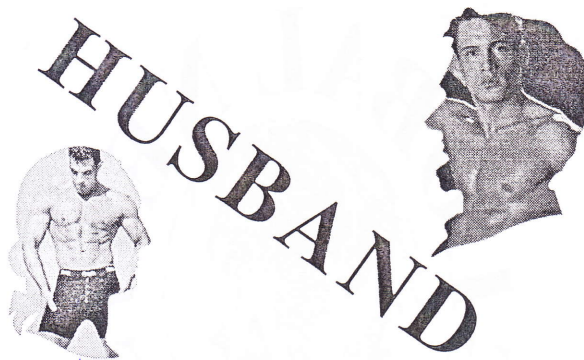
Rule Number 11 - Buy lots of chicken soup. Don't eat it, just keep it in the can in the kitchen cupboard. The day after you bring him home, while you're in the shower, he's sure to look through your home. Any man you bring home who doesn't look through your personal belongings is afraid of what he may find. I can't imagine having a man around the house who was afraid of me, or my apparatuses. But anyway when he sees the chicken soup, he'll instantly know that when he's feeling poorly, you'll be there to nurture him back to health.

Rule Number 12 - If you must talk about your mother, please do so only on Mother's Day. No one wants a "mama's boy" except Mama herself. If this appeals to you, perhaps you're not queer, but just a sissy.

Rule Number 13 - Meet his parents! You must know where this man is coming from. Is his mother the regional mah-jong champion? (perhaps you should hide your bank-books) Or is she the choir director of the Holy Church of Perpetual Reunion? (perhaps you should hide your tattoos) Does she have a part time job as a masseuse? (perhaps you should ask if she's trained her son) Does she shop at Escada? (perhaps you should explain to her how valuable your own fashion advice would be.) And what about Dad? Does he have a job? (perhaps you should hide your bank-books) Does he work for



HUSBAND CATCHER



a bank? (perhaps you should inquire about career opportunities) Does he pick his nose? (perhaps you should send him to visit me...)

Rule Number 14 - Never let him meet your parents! Unless of course you want to get rid of him. Actually, this rule can be bent. I have met some parents who were more likeable than most of the tricks I've brought home. I do know that every man I ever introduced to my parents left me soon thereafter. I suppose this could be the result of having a very handsome and wealthy father. Now that I think of it, my father did spend a great deal of time out of the house in the evenings, and I distinctly remember my mother complaining that she never got enough sex... I know his best friend was a queer because he repeated tried to seduce me. But anyway, they're both dead.

Rule Number 15 - Lose the mobile phone. At least lose it in the evenings, and weekends. It certainly is nice to bump into a man with a rock hard tool in his pocket, but mobiles make lousy dildos. I can say this because I speak from substantial experience with them (dildos, not portables). But seriously, what will you do when it rings at that crucial moment when he's reaching over to stick his tongue down your throat, and you stick your hand into your pocket to answer the damn thing and he realises that hard thing rubbing his leg had nothing to do with sexual arousal? Not only that, you don't want him to think that your dance card is so empty you're just waiting for the next call! Do you think Lady Di carries a mobile?

Rule Number 16 - Do some shopping in Fetish Fashion, and actually spend some money. I say this not because I'm their local supplier of the latex line, nor

because I've tried on every article of clothing they have in stock, and I'm trying to help them clear their inventory. Fetish Fashion has probably the trendiest collection for the fall season! Anyone can buy Versace, but does it really look good on everyone? It doesn't work for me. how about you? Unless you're 23 years old, 132 pounds with abs of steel, forget it! Latex on the other hand looks great on everyone. Admittedly it doesn't drape like chenille, or organza, but I've never seen a man wearing latex who didn't have my name written all over him!

Rule Number 17 - Learn some Cantonese. They say a little knowledge goes a long way. I have found over the years that mentioning a few choice tid-bits will excite any local boy here. For instance, to say "come to bed with me," you would recite: M'ho baat gwa. They frequently say this to me. Of course they know I'm a married girl, so they realise I can't oblige them, but they still ask it repeatedly. Sometimes when they know I'm a little horny, and they want to tease me they put a little aggression into their voices. When it's a little late in the evening, and I'm ready to go home, I tell them: ngoh oi lei. This is a very polite way of saying good nite - immediately afterwards, everyone will very quickly and quietly disperse.

Rule Number 18 - While it's true that the PLA boys are quite handsome, beefy, and lithe, exercise great caution with them. They earn less than \$500 per month, so they can be quite a cash drain. Of course they're quite good at polishing shoes, and they know how to iron, but they are very much into rough trade. Recently I brought one home, and he beat me really good. He was so expert, he didn't even take his clothes off. Of course I got countless bruises, a cracked rib, and ended up with 17 stitches on my head from a chair he threw at me, but what a great time!



Australia

The Australian company that publishes the Gay newspapers *Melbourne Star Observer* and *Capital Q* and the national Gay glossy *Outrage* last month launched *Lip: The Lesbian Magazine*. "*Lip* takes on the traditions of Gay publishing and women's magazines and turns them upside down," said Editor Kelly Gardiner. "From fashion spreads to the Agony Aunt, from realpolitik to relationships, *Lip* takes a new look at the possibilities of the women's magazine and laughs out loud." *Lip* will be distributed free.

Singapore

Hong Kong Magazine's sister paper *IS* is in trouble with the Ministry of Information and the Arts who has refused to renew the publication permit of the entertainment magazine *IS* because it prints Gay personal ads. "*IS* Magazine has flouted [our] guidelines by publishing items which are objectionable, for example, phone lines offering phone sex, ads which are lewd, and ads which promote unacceptable lifestyles such as homosexuality," a ministry spokesman said. *IS*, circulation 25,000, has launched an appeal of the ruling but not before killing off its entire personals section "so as not to offend MITA," said Editor-in-chief Gretchen Worth.

And still in Singapore

The Singapore Gay group People Like Us has been denied registration with the government's Registrar of Societies and thus cannot operate legally. "About 5 months after submitting our application ... the Registrar of Societies wrote to us rejecting our application," the group reported this week on its World Wide Web site. "No reason was given. We telephoned them to ask for the reason, but they said they did not entertain such requests over the phone. So we wrote to the Registrar formally. Meanwhile, we sent our Appeal to the Minister for Home Affairs, a route prescribed by the Societies Act. In the third week of May, we received a reply from the Registry saying that they would not accede to our request for the reason behind their rejection. We wrote immediately to the Minister to protest that unhelpful attitude." Under Singapore law, any unregistered organisation "shall be deemed to be an unlawful society."

Brazil The first Gay "East-West" group in South America was launched in late July. Billy Wong, Long Yang Club LYC's outreach worker, said "We chose São Paulo to start our group as the city has a surprisingly large Asian population: 450,000 Japanese, 150,000 Mainland Chinese, 100,000 Taiwanese and 40,000 Koreans. Their launch party at Tunnel Disco was a sensation! Of the 579 people who attended, half were Asians. The Gay community were so excited by it that news of the event appeared in all the city's Gay media as well as the Japanese-language media, on some of the front pages.

Taiwan

On Sunday, June 27 Over 30 Gay organisations staged Taiwan's first Gay/Lesbian pride festival: "Rainbows, Homosexuals and Dreams in the Park." The park was 2-28 Memorial Park, a notorious night-time cruising spot and the setting for Pai Hsien-yung's famed Gay novel "*Crystal Boys*." Organisers said they hoped "to encourage recognition and friendship from the general public." They said "Taiwanese Gays are experiencing a blossoming of open Gay and Lesbian life, spearheaded by 'G&L,' the country's bi-monthly, officially licensed magazine for homosexuals."

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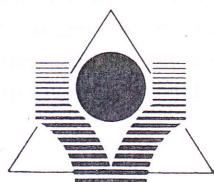
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Portrait of a Fighter

Part II



CM: You are an advocate of the democratic process, the underlying premise is that the majority rules. But if the majority claims that the rights of the lesbian community aren't considered important, and therefore shouldn't be protected, isn't this just a part of democracy?

Christine Loh: The majority is allowed to make the decision, but along with this "privilege" comes duty, and the duty of the majority is to protect minorities. Legislators are duty bound to understand the complexity of the environment in which they operate, they need to take the holistic approach. This is what civilisation is all about. And when you come right down to it, people are hard pressed to find actual cases where equal opportunity for minority groups has hurt society, rather than make it a better place for everyone.

CM: Why are you so adamant about getting anti-discrimination passed in Hong Kong? Aren't there other ways of approaching or solving the problem?

Christine Loh: Legislation should be interpreted as the community acknowledging an issue and setting ways for dealing with difficult problems. The process of legislation for equality is a reflection of the attitudes in the society as a whole. Obtaining equality in Hong Kong will be a marathon process, and we've just not come very far yet. The lack of progress on the sexuality part of the equal opportunity bills is a strong indicator that our government just doesn't want to know about sexuality. But on the other hand, the recent allocation of funds from the Chinese Cemeteries Fund to a few of the lesbian groups is in fact an acknowledgement that a need for public education exists. Clearly the government isn't prepared to seriously take up the issue right now. They do realise that there is a problem, but right now they're dealing with it by avoiding it.

CM: So what safeguards do you think should be put in place to protect the lesbian community in the future?

Christine Loh: Legislation. This will provide recourse to aggrieved people in the future. The Equal Opportunity Commission is a good beginning. The EOC was established to hear cases of discrimination based on sex or disability, but it could and should be expanded to handle sexuality and all other forms of discrimination as well. I also

have heard about the idea of a Lesbian and Gay Community Centre in Hong Kong. While I'm not sure if one large facility would be better than several smaller ones, this idea is a good one.

CM: Going back to the east versus west issue you've raised, do you think that western tactics of activism are inappropriate in Hong Kong? Do you think that westerners should bow out of Hong Kong's activist spotlight?

Christine Loh: No. I think when it comes to advocacy, there are only successful or unsuccessful strategies. I am an activist and I'm Chinese. Some tactics are soft, and some are hard - we need all kinds. In the past 3 years that I've worked with lesbian activists, the number of faces are increasing, not decreasing. Even if the issue weren't Lesbian or Gay rights, it's important that you express your viewpoints. Otherwise people don't know what the issues are. The success of this movement must come from a diverse group, and using the east/west or local/gweilo "differences in strategy" argument is, well, just erroneous. It's a continuation of the prejudices we are trying to remove. There are only successful or unsuccessful strategies.

Concluding
part of the
interview
with Christine Loh,
former Legco Rep-
resentative.

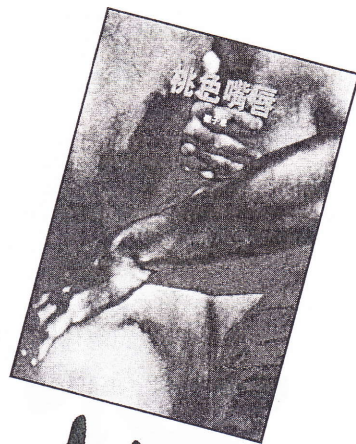
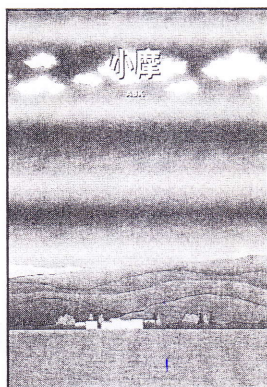
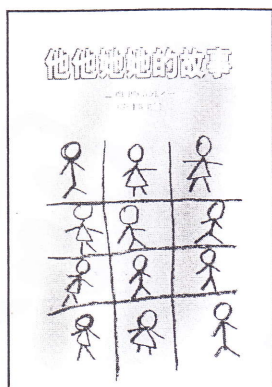
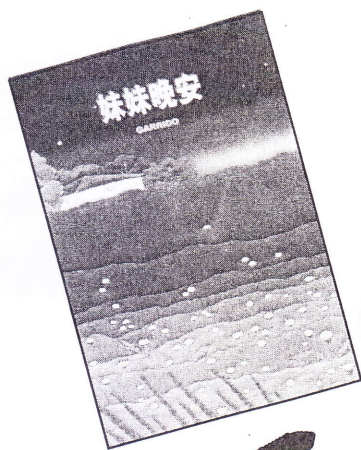
CM: Do you think the government's effort to educate was a sincere one on their part?

Christine Loh: I'm sure the government was sincere, but I don't think that they were prepared to be the leader in the effort. My feeling is that they should be the prime advocate. Our government is making a very passive effort that just follows the community, and doesn't lead.

This is a shame. If I were to design a program of education, I would start in the schools. Only recently have textbooks in Hong Kong addressed the topic on sex, and sexuality should really be a part of this change in the curriculum. As far as adult education is concerned, I think that the Lesbian and Gay Community Centre should also serve some sort of outreach function. Even though the government has all these outlying district offices, their effectiveness as a way of disseminating information is questionable. We need to be more creative in communicating the message. No one really goes to the district office to collect information; we should work more creatively and aggressively.

CM: The Hong Kong Bill of Rights, and even the United Nations ICCPR doesn't identify the lesbian community as a group of people who should be protected by anti-discrimination efforts - although both address this need in principle. Don't you get the feeling that those in power just don't care?

Christine Loh: We're going to make them care! The UN human rights covenants were drafted several decades ago, they need some up-dating. Perhaps the international lesbian community could press for amendments. This is not a time to sit back. Our leaders have a duty to listen to us. We must engage them.



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一拾起書已被封面那浪漫纏綿的桃色所吸引,別誤會,書中並沒有甚麼激情的動作畫面.反之,教人佩服的是作者對故事的編排佈局與其豐富的想像力.

作者筆下三位主要人物都是同性戀者,彼此有著錯縱複雜的關係.一名六十歲的父親,同樣是面對同性戀者,態度卻判若兩人,形成強烈的對比.

前段描寫那名父親耐心聆聽一位親密朋友——葉紅車的講話.葉染

上愛滋病,臥在病床上憶述自己的情史,父親則寄予深厚的同情和體諒.後段講述離鄉別井的兒子小貓回月城探親時,被父親發現他的同性戀身份後的激烈爭論.父親對兒子尖酸刻薄的攻擊,使人覺得有點不可理喻,直至最後將兒子閹割,在牢中唸咒的一段都使人看得心痛.

整篇內衣之內的文字充滿「空」的色彩,作者將「空」的內涵外延發揮得淋漓盡致,還不時用「空」字造詞,至於最佳的「空」的事例莫過於小貓和女演員搞的一場騙局罷!船起船伏的前後呼應,予人一種時空交錯的感覺,最初我還以為葉紅車和小貓所說的ABCD...是同一人呢!

總括來說,葉紅車的情史是較自然的.

值得一提的是封面內頁的漫畫,前面的相當有意思.若後面的改畫葉紅車父親的野牛皮寬腰帶的權威性或小貓將人物交疊著的影像就更好.這書是作者首次發表的長篇小說作品,真叫人愛不擇手.

By Patrick Fok

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熱線

2314-4348

我們正招募電話熱線朋輩輔導員、自信、成熟而又願意為香港日漸壯大的女同志獻上一分力量的,請快快現身,傳呼機:71128445 a/c 1613.

姊妹同志

一個一腳踏住好多個框框,但又嵌不進一個框框女性主義組織.一班五時花六時變不斷追求更開放、更包容、更人道世界的女人.

點解要存在?

性權人權中一個非常重要的部分,人有權探索、發現和選擇她們的性意識形態(sexualities),例如選擇喜愛那一種性別的人,穿那一種性別的衣服、喜歡用什麼方式做愛,甚至乎選擇自己的性別等等.但有很多女人,對自己的性方面掌握的自主權其實好細,例如好多人認為提供性服務者都沒有給別人強姦的權利,有好多女人甚至乎不願意和丈夫性愛的權利都沒有.所以我們要促進女性對自身的性權意識,向各方爭取女性的性權.

邊個係Friend?

我們的服務對象是選擇多元性愛的女性.「多元性愛選擇」不局限於同性戀或雙性戀等「性傾向」,我們不相信權威,專拆「真理」,沒有底線;鼓勵女性以自己作為主體,多多去探索自己的性意識形態方面的多元同多變性.我們非常重視女性的自身經驗,做事的方針都是她們(我們)的生活中實際所遇到的問題和困難出發.

10

Good Things to know about the Gay Games

The registrations for the Gay Games are officially accepted by the host city Amsterdam for next year's games. In Hong Kong, Vincent Boudville said he will act as a clearing house for information on the Games and how to register and for any news and updates that might come from Amsterdam or via Sydney.

Further information is also available from: Official Amsterdam 1998 Gay Games V Website: <http://www.gaygames.nl> E-mail: info@gaygames.nl Vincent's e-mail address is: vincentb@HK.Super.NET

1

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 is the largest international sports and cultural event that has ever been organised in the Netherlands. Every day from the 1st to the 8th of August, 15,000 participants and 30,000 visitors will be expected in Amsterdam.

2

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 is a gay and lesbian event that is open to everyone, regardless of race, gender, physical ability or sexual preference. This is the 5th edition of an international event held once every four years and the first time that it has been held outside North America.

3

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will be watched, heard and read by millions of people on television, radio, via internet, and in the printed media. This visibility and openness inspire people in countries where many taboos are still encountered.

4

The motto for Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 is 'Friendship through Culture and Sports.' Friendship brings lesbians, Gays straights and people with HIV and AIDS together and is a sign of concern and care for one another.

5

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 is supported by the Amsterdam City Council, the Province of North Holland, the Dutch National government, the European Commission, NOC*NSF and a Recommendation Committee which includes prominent politicians, the business community, sports and cultural personalities.

6

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 is organising 30 sports events in co-operation with the Dutch Sports Association and many individual sports associations. Whole participation is more important than winning, the competitive sports events will be organised according to national and international rules and regulations.

7

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will be presenting exhibitions in prominent museums, a whole range of performing arts, four exciting festivals, and a dynamic community arts program

8

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will be an eight-day, colourful spectacle for everyone: on the canals during the Gay Pride Tour, near the Amstel River during the rocking Amstel Nights, and in the Amsterdam ArenA during the Opening and closing Ceremonies.

9

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will provide Amsterdam's economy an additional financial boost of almost 150 million guilders (US\$79 million).

10

10. With a rich and varied program of sports and cultural events, Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will break through taboos and break down any notion of stereotypes. It is a party of solidarity and diversity for Lesbian women and Gay men.

COMING

OUT

TO OTHERS



By J.Abramchyk

Once acceptance of self has begun, it is inevitable that a Lesbian will seek acceptance from others as well. Being a Lesbian means that a woman will be experiencing a massive drain of personal resources on a daily basis.

“Freedom’s just another word
for...nothin’ left to lose”

— Janis Joplin

A lot of Gay people’s energy goes into deciding where, when, how and whom to tell about being Gay and in worrying about the possible consequences of being ‘out’ to significant others.

Coming out of the closet, that is, identifying or labelling oneself as Gay, is one of the most difficult and potentially traumatic experiences a Gay person undertakes.

Coming out entails receiving responses: positive responses can help promote self-acceptance, negative responses provide more stress and can reinforce shame and self-hatred.

Coming out is not done once and for all time. It is a lifelong process that includes consideration of to whom, when, where and under what circumstances disclosure is safe to make.

Not coming out is as significant for Lesbians as coming out is. The opposite of self-disclosure, keeping this information entirely to oneself, is an affirmation of internalised homophobia, implying that this aspect of oneself is too shameful to dis-

close to anyone.

Invisibility means always having to be quiet about what is central in our lives, and living with the constant risk of unexpected exposure. We may live in constant fear of our world collapsing at any moment if we are “found out”.

We may internalise the stigma when we do not come out and thus blame ourselves. Because the systemic oppression is so

Coming out of the closet, that is, identifying or labelling oneself as Gay, is one of the most difficult and potentially traumatic experiences a Gay person undertakes.

powerful, it does not occur to us that we may be healthy and society may be sick.

Coming out may result in loss of friends, job, in ridicule or in violence. However, it is an important and vital assertion of self-pride.

Hiding disempowers whereas coming out empowers. Counsellors can share this knowledge with their clients and help to nurture Lesbian pride. At the same time, it is important to be straight-forward about the difficulties involved in being out.

Ideas for coming out to significant others, like parents:

- (1) wait until you feel comfortable about your own sexuality, present the information in as kind a way as possible, supply some helpful reading material about homosexuality and hope for the best.
- (2) Remember that you have had time to prepare and choose the occasion, place and method of telling. Between one minute and the next, their world changes.
- (3) Prepare yourself through imagination, including what you are going to say, what you'd like to accomplish, how they might respond and how you would feel if they reacted that way.
- (4) Be prepared to help them understand their feelings because at first you may be

the only person available to do this. Learn a little about loss and grief, as they will necessarily go through a grieving process over the child they thought they knew.

- (5) Consider and be aware of your tone of voice, facial expressions and actions.

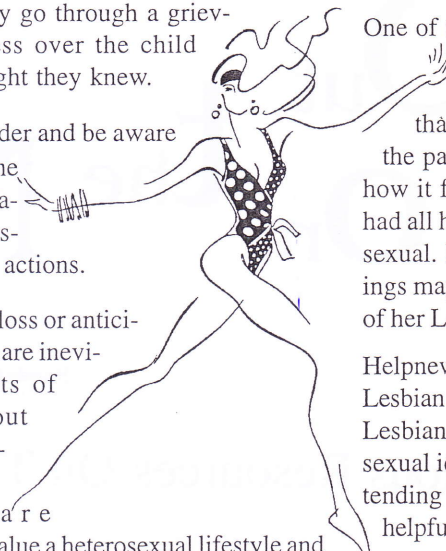
Grief and loss or anticipated loss are inevitable parts of coming out for all Lesbians. Lesbians are raised to value a heterosexual lifestyle and it is natural to grieve the loss of that value when we realise we may no longer be part of that lifestyle.

By choosing to identify as a Lesbian, a woman is not entitled to marry Lesbian partners, divorce, carry joint health insurance with partners, or publish pictures in the newspaper to signify the couples' intentions to legalise our relationships. Public display of affection could risk public censure and/or possible job loss. Finally,

coming out to families and friends risks being rejected or even disowned.

One of the ways to deal with the loss of the inherent privileges is to recognise, acknowledge, and grieve that loss. Encourage friends to feel the pain of the loss and to grieve. Ask how it feels to give up the dreams she's had all her life that relate to being heterosexual. Resolution of these painful feelings may help her move to an experience of her Lesbianism as positive.

Helpnewly-emerged Lesbians to adjust to Lesbian life, celebrating the importance of Lesbian identity and letting go of heterosexual identity. A coming out party or attending her first women's dance may be helpful.



**Hiding
disempowers
whereas coming
out empowers.**

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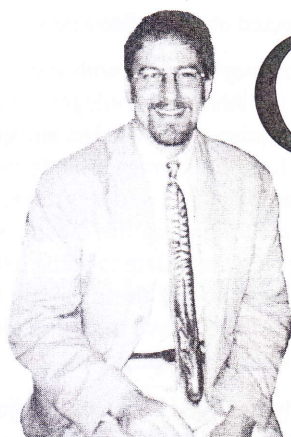
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Out On The Net

By Spode

Spode@sqzm14.ust.hk

Queer Religious Resources On The Net

To some, Gay and Lesbian issues and religion are a bad mix. Those in this camp might want to check out the 'Gay And Lesbian Atheists And Humanists' site at <http://www.serve.com/tgkindc/galah.html>. This is very U.S. focused, but has an interesting and humorous mix of material on atheism and humanism.

For those who are looking for ways to incorporate their gay identity with their religious beliefs, there are many resources

available - especially for the major denominations.

Directories Yahoo!, as always, has an excellent assortment of links at http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Lesbian_Gay_and_Bisexual/Religion/. Most of them fall into five categories: Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Paganism, and Unitarian-Universalism.

QPlanet! maintains a Queer Spirituality page at <http://qplanet.com/spirit.html>, with

the best set of links I found. They're also one of the few directories which provide more than a one-line description of the sites their links lead to.

For a semi-comprehensive page with simple listings to both organizational and denominational site, go to <http://world.std.com/~rice/q-light/links.html>

Buddhism One link missing from Yahoo!'s Buddhist listings is Hong Kong's own 'Isvaranet' (<http://home.netvigator.com/~hofatkw/>). While I personally find the use of sound files on every page annoying, the selections are pleasant, the pages are well organized, and the information looks quite useful.

Judaism The best site for queer Jewish information is 'Twice Blessed: The Jewish LGBT Archives Online' (<http://www.magic.ca/~faygelah/Index.html>). In addition to providing access to a wealth of information from their archives, they maintain a set of excellent pages for Judaism-related resources, both online and not. They also have a connection to 'The Ring of Naches' (<http://www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?home&ring=naches>), which links similar websites.

Christianity This category is HUGE, so I will just list some of the biggies: For a fantastic historical overview from an academic perspective, don't miss the online exhibition "Liberating the Spirit: The Lesbian and Gay Presence in Religion" (http://www.harvard.edu/divinity_school/public_html/library/liberate/exhibit.htm), which was organized by the Harvard Divinity School.

Protestant The 'Universal Fellowship Metropolitan Community Church [MCC]' (<http://www.ufmcc.com/>) is the "gay Protestant denomination" which has been out and active for many years. A truly welcoming environment, and global in nature.

MUCH more useful is the amazingly informative 'Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Catholic Handbook' at <http://www.bway.net/~halsall/lgbh.html>

There are too many others to be comprehensive, but there are sites for glb Lutherans, Presbyterians, Eastern Orthodox, Mormons, and others - even Southern Baptists!

And don't forget our own HK Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship (<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/6262/>). Also join the discussion on the #gaychristian IRC channel.

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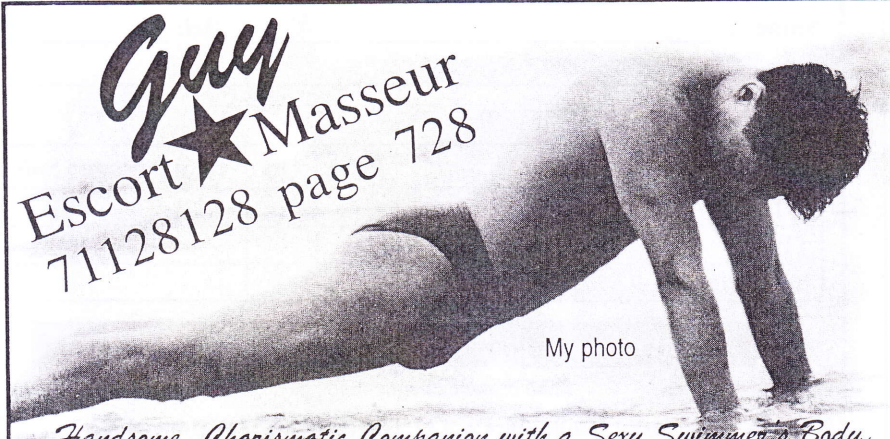
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71128128 page 728



My photo

Handsome, Charismatic Companion with a Sexy Swimmer's Body.

On Thursday June 26, 1997 a brand new gay bar opened in Hong Kong. Four days later the British colony reverted to Chinese rule, a system of government well known for its repressive manners and a dismal record of human rights abuses. What's wrong with this picture—or right with it?

Depending on what you read or want to believe about China, the future of Hong Kong's gay community is up for grabs.

A couple of months ago a press report came across the wires that two gay bars in major cities in China had been raided by the police and the patrons strip searched before they were questioned and released.

During the Handover week an item was sent to hkqueers discussion group from a happy camper (westerner) in Shanghai: "I think Eddie's Place in Shanghai is one of the friendliest gay bars I've been to in Asia. Maybe because everyone still parties together there's not too much attitude. The crowd's a mix of locals, expats, Taiwanese and Hong Kong guys. Very friendly, helpful and easy to make friends. Apparently they've just moved into new digs with triple the space of their old place."

It seems the future of gay Hong Kong is a matter of interpretation rather than prediction. In the flood of 8000 reporters sent here to probe the nostrils of this churning megacity during its change of loyalty from the Queen to the Chairman, a few gays journalists have show up on the doorsteps of gay bars, clubs, discos and saunas as well as in the living room (as I have) of lesbian residents here with the usual bevy of future-questions.

Ask Paul Hicks, one of four owners of the new Flex bar in the hyper-trendy Lan Kwai Fong area about his concern for the future of his business: "what's there to worry about. They have gay bars in China and none of them are closing," he declared with confidence as he showed me around his new venue. Within five hundred feet

Letter to Hong Kong

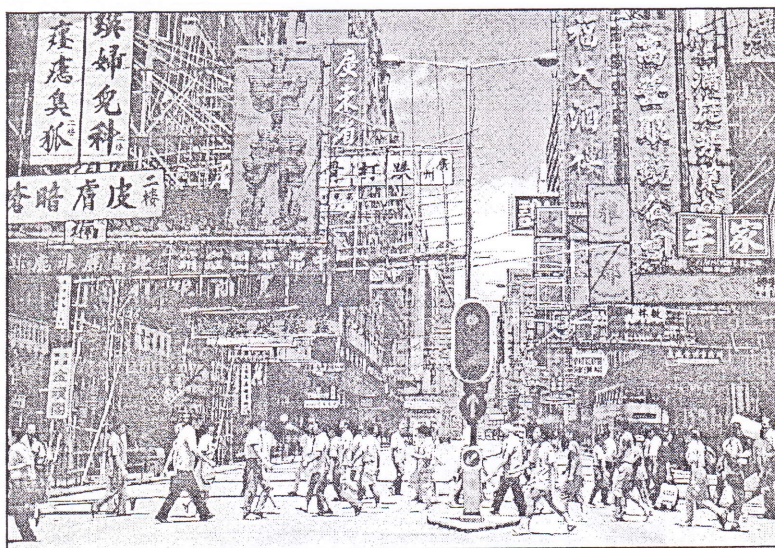
By Richard Ammon

The streets of this area are densely packed with attitude and bodies evenings and weekends reflecting the popularity of this slice of life. Gay bars, straight bars, mixed bars; It's all here in one small four-block area, and no one seems to care what you do in bed. (Just getting 'someone' there is probably more of a common purpose). Young. Professional. Fashionably dressed. Cigaretted and cocktailed. The cafes and bars are so small that most of the jollymakers are out in the streets. The occasional bazaar costume (a union jack made into a dress) or drag queen (Robin Adams in scarlet and sequins) ruffles the crowds into further amusement or laughter.

So what's the gay future here?

Part of the answer depends on who is asked—and on how much they have to lose. Ask the handsome United Airlines flight attendant (from Brazil) based in Hong Kong and he thinks little about the 'scene' here. "It's a fun place to come on the weekend." Ask a club owner and the future is given a robust vote of confidence: "This is Hong Kong. Things change here all the time...Hong Kong thrives on small business. Entrepreneurs make this city what it is."

Robin Adams, an activist, business man, drag queen, partner and Gay dad. He's staying put. He and partner Sam have started a consulting business and adopted two children. "This is our home. It's very exciting here. We are going to watch the new legislature to make sure they don't back track on any of the civil rights gains of the past several years. This is definitely the time to stay. Like Martin Lee says, if we don't continue to speak up for our liberties they could well erode away in silence."



there are five other Gay owned bars, discos and restaurants. These are only the tip of the Gay community here. At Propaganda just down the street, the music pounds louder than any human ear should endure. Around the corner, jangled nerves can be soothed with food and drink from such restaurants as Wyndom Thai Food or Post 1997. Or more music at Zip. "If there's any question, we can turn the place into a karaoke bar" laughed one patron busy juggling a drink at the weekly tea dance at Club 1997.

Ask Julian Chan and he will tell you he is proud to be Chinese but "when seeing Chris Patten checking out from the Governor House, when seeing the flag of Britain coming down, when hearing 'God Save the Queen', all a sudden I wanted to cry. All my friends said that they felt sad, too. After all, we are the generation that was born and grew up in British colonist ruling. The British colony legacy is part of our childhood, part of our growth, part of our life. This is something that mainland Chinese and those old communists

in Beijing wouldn't understand."

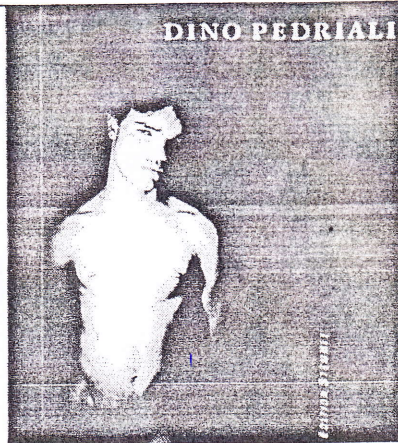
There are as many answers as there are personal and professional investments. It is normal to imagine the future in the form of our hope.

So the future may be a matter of power politics and big money, but for now the Beijing-appointed leaders are taking pains to assure worried citizens that civil liberties

**Depending on what you read
or want to believe about
China, the future of Hong
Kong's gay community is up
for grabs.**

will be respected—as long as they don't create disruptive confrontation with the needs of a civil society.

Some of the strategy for the gay community here must be shaped toward survival (doing good business and keeping politically quiet) and some toward active lobbying and legal demonstrations for equal opportunity and legal protection against discrimination. The future is in both of these gestures. In order to be active we must be practical. Hong Kong's Gay community is well educated, adaptable and ever mindful of making a good buck—and it knows the discrimination it faces. We can play both games well. We know how to look fabulous—and work a deal.



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Japanese 28, Professional, 179cm, 66 kgs, cute, good looking, swimmer's body, interested in Chinese/Americans 25-35, professional, good-looking, nice body. Also looking for american English tutor (under 35). Let's meet and have fun. Send photo/phone. Box 257

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Chiense 39 years, muscular build, bottom. Seek GWM Daddy with hairy body and top. All letter answered. Box 253

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2/F., Cheung Hing Comm. Bldg.,
No.37-43 Cochrane Stree, Central, Hong Kong
Tel: 2581-9951. 1:00pm-1:00am

GAME BOY'S

2/F., 324 Lockhard Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel: 2574-3215 2:00am-12:00 midnight

JJ PARK

3/F., Flat A, Fairview Mansion,
51 Paterson Street,
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Tel: 2882-2399. 3:00pm-1:00am

JONATHAN'S FITNESS CLUB

42 Carnarvon Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Tel: 2369-8174. 4:30pm-12:00 midnight

KK

16/F., Block A, Fuk Lok Bldg.,
19-21 Jordan Road, Kowloon.
Tel: 2388-6138. 2:00pm-1:00am

ROME CLUB

2/F., Chiap Lee Bldg., 27 Ashley Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2376-0602. 3:00pm-12:00 midnight

TAI FAN

1/F Chun Lee Commercial Bldg.,
494-496 Nathan Road, Kowloon
Tel: 2770-7673
12:00pm-12:00 midnight

YUK TAK CHEE

G/F., 123 Prince Edward Road, Kowloon.
Tel: 2393-9505
12:00pm-12:00 midnight

SHOPPING

FETISH FASHION

Basement, 29 Hollywood Road,
Central, Hong Kong.
Tel: 2544-1155 Fax: 2524-9216
Tuesday-Sunday 11:am-7:00pm



TRAVEL

EXPECTATIONS

GPO Box 11508, Hong Kong
Tel: 2522-1923 Fax: 2537-7998



AIDS INFORMATION

AIDS CONCERN

General Enquiries: 2898-4411
Helpline: 2898-4422



AIDS FOUNDATION

General Enquiries: 2560-8528
Helpline: 2513-0513
Infoline: 170-222-170

AIDS HOTLINE

Tel: 2780-2211

HIV INFORMATION & DROP-IN CENTRE

St. Johns' Cathedral,
Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Tel: 2525-7207, 2525-7208

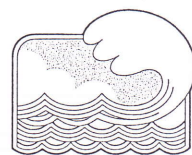
BEACHES

MIDDLE BAY BEACH

South Bay Road, Hong Kong

SOUTH BAY BEACH

South Bay Road, Hong Kong



SOCIAL GROUPS



BLESSED MINORITY

PO Box 20516, Hennessy Road Post Office,
Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel: 7116-8888 a/c 3330 Cantonese speaking.

FREEMEN

GPO Box 2443, Hong Kong
Pager 7112-8903 a/c 8862 (Cantonese)
Tel: 9106-4983 (English)
(Social group organises many activities.)

HORIZONS

G.P.O.Box 6837, Hong Kong.
Tel: 2815-9268

ISVARA

P.O.Box 74342,
Kowloon Central Post Office, Kowloon
Tel: 2782-0649 Fax: 2374-5948
(Gay Buddhist Group)

LUI TUNG YUEN

PO Box 266, Texaco Road Post Office,
Tsuen Wan, N.T.
Pager 7112-8936 a/c 7706

QUEER SISTERS

GPO Box 91313, Hong Kong
Pager 7112-8445 a/c 1613
Hotline 2314-4348 (Older Lesbians)

SATSANGA

PO Box 92128, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2314-1921
Forums, Workshops and social activities.
(Mainly Chinese speaking)

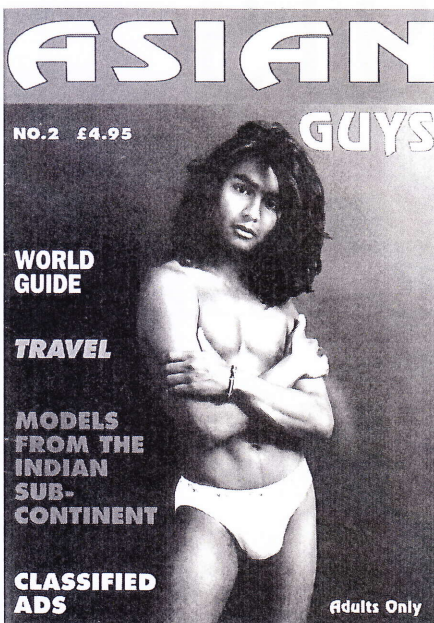
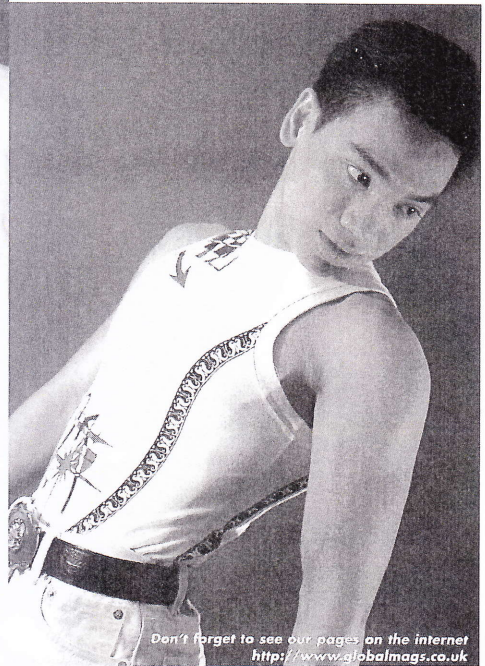
THE 10% CLUB

P.O.Box 72207, Central Post Office Kowloon.
Tel: 2314-8726
Social and political awareness.
(Mainly Chinese speaking)

P
R



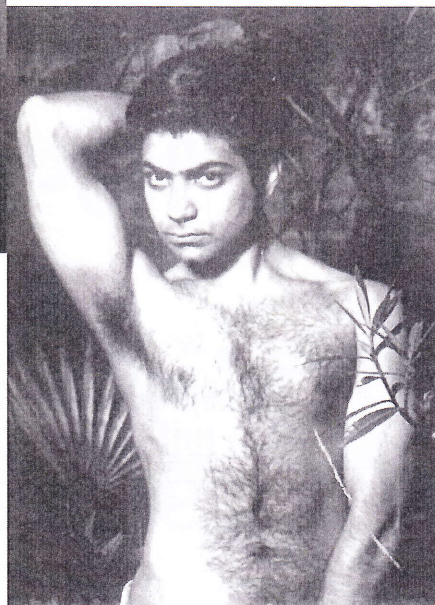
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